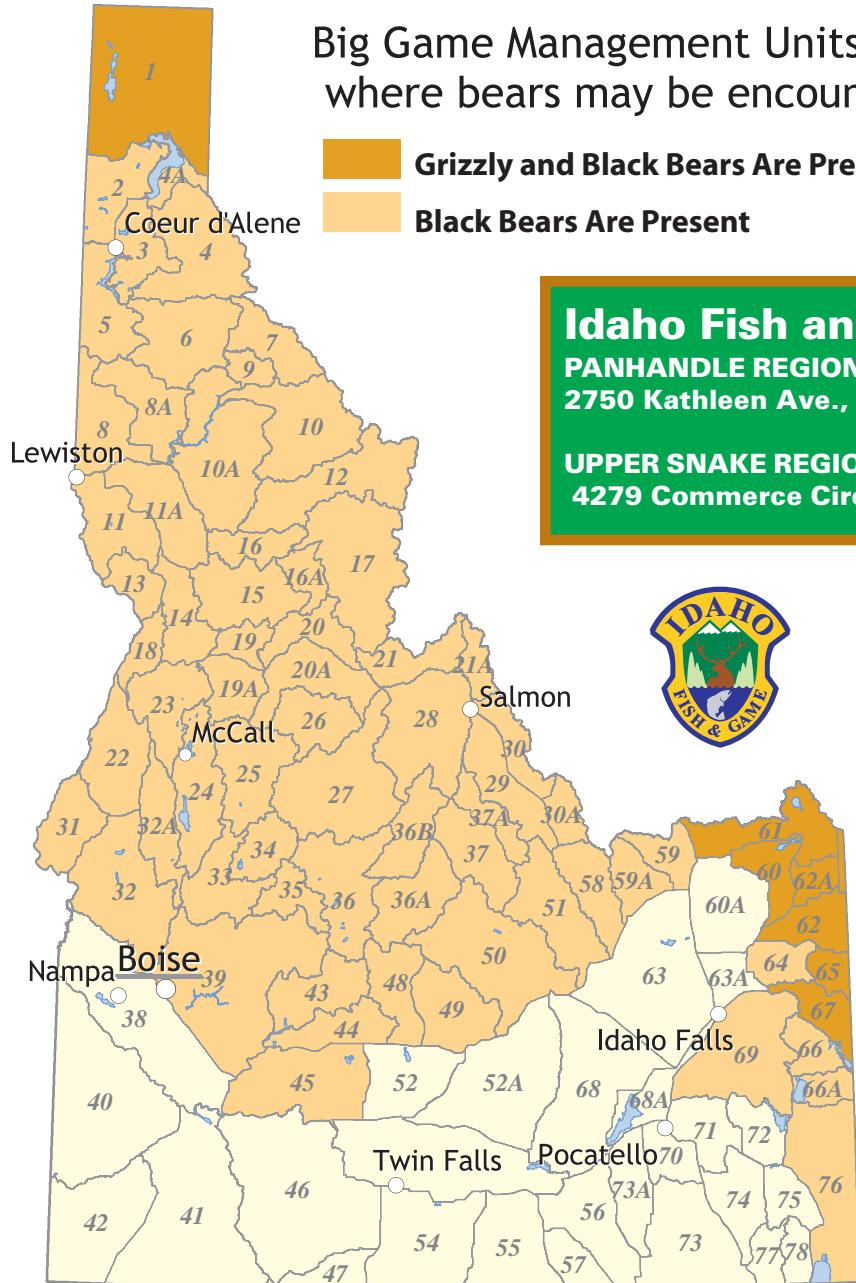


Big Game Management Units where bears may be encountered

 Grizzly and Black Bears Are Present

 Black Bears Are Present



Idaho Fish and Game Offices:

PANHANDLE REGION (208) 769-1414
2750 Kathleen Ave., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

UPPER SNAKE REGION (208) 525-7290
4279 Commerce Circle, Idaho Falls, ID 83401

How to Hunt Safely in Grizzly Bear Country



*"Think grizzly and
be prepared"*

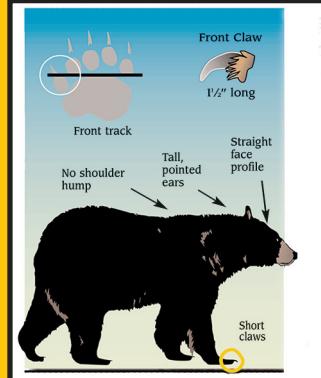
Grizzly bears are an important part of Idaho's wildlife heritage. Today however, grizzlies are only found in a few places near the Canadian border and near Yellowstone. Be aware that grizzlies may be found in these areas and be prepared.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of IDFG, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707; OR The Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240. Costs associated with this publication are available from IDFG in accordance with section 60-202, Idaho Code.

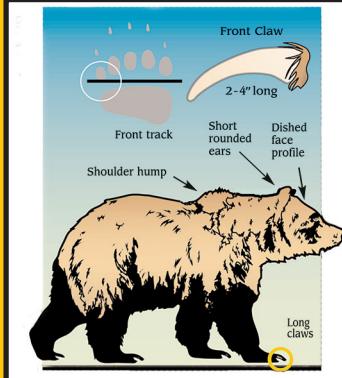


What to be aware of if you hunt in grizzly country:

- Grizzlies may be found in 2 areas of Idaho: the Panhandle in big game unit 1; and Southeast Idaho in the Yellowstone Ecosystem in big game units 60, 61, 62, 62A, 65, and 67.
- Be aware that the act of hunting puts you at risk of encountering grizzlies in these areas.
- You should hunt with partners in grizzly country and make each other aware of plans. Communications and check in times are helpful.
- While hunting in grizzly country, pay attention to fresh grizzly bear sign. Look for tracks, scats, digs, concentration of foods or a carcass.
- Let your partners know if you've seen grizzly bear sign.



Black Bear



Grizzly Bear

graphics and photos courtesy of Chuck Bartlebaugh-CWI

Safeguards for retrieving game in bear country:

- When hunting in grizzly bear country, the golden rule is "get the meat out of the area as quickly as possible". The longer a carcass remains lying on the ground or within reach of a bear, the more likely it will be discovered by a grizzly.
- If you cannot get the meat out immediately then use special caution. Carry a lightweight tarp or space blanket. Put the guts on the tarp and drag them far away from the carcass. Use the tarp to cover the carcass to prevent scent as well as to keep ravens and other predators away. Hang clothing and other items at the site to keep animals away. Locate an observation point as far away from the carcass as possible with a clear line-of-site to the carcass and memorize the site.
- When returning, approach the carcass carefully. Yell or whistle repeatedly. Study the scene with binoculars from the observation point and look for signs of a bear. Do not try to scare a bear off a carcass. If the meat is not salvageable, report the incident to IDFG.
- When hanging meat back at camp, make sure it is at least 10 feet off the ground. Also, keep food and other garbage out of a bear's reach.



Remember if you are alert and prepared, hunting in grizzly country can be very safe and rewarding.

What to do if you encounter a bear:

- The mere presence of a bear does not always pose a risk. The vast majority of bears will leave an area when they become aware of human presence. If you do run into a bear, assess the situation and stay calm: do not run.
- Decide if the bear is aware of you and threatening, or if it is fleeing or unaware. Keep the bear in sight and back away and leave the area.
- Most grizzly attacks are prompted by inadvertently running into a female and young, surprising a bear at close range or near a carcass.
- When hunting in grizzly country, it is recommended that every hunter **carry bear pepper spray**. Keep the spray easily accessible and within reach. Bears sprayed in the face at close range usually stop attacking and are less likely to inflict serious injury.
- If attacked, use a weapon only if bear pepper spray is unavailable. Wounding a bear will likely increase the level of an attack.
- As a last resort, if physically attacked, play dead until the bear is gone. Lie face down, covering your neck and head with your arms. This technique has proven successful in reducing injuries during an attack.